

California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Djibouti.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. SASSE. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Fisher and Pratt nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO PAT ROBERTS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President. Senator PAT ROBERTS has dedicated his life to serving the Nation and the people of his home State of Kansas, and I would like to take a moment to recognize his retirement.

During his 40 years of service in the U.S. Congress, Senator ROBERTS has become a leader on agriculture, rural health and education, and defense policy. Senator ROBERTS is the first Member of Congress to chair the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. Through his work on this committee and other, and across Congress, Senator ROBERTS has served with honor and distinction, keeping foremost in mind the interests and needs of Kansans.

PAT has been a true partner on the Agriculture Committee. His methodical approach to bipartisanship mirrors my own efforts when I served a chairman of that committee and worked with Senator Dick Lugar to write and advance farm bills, nutrition laws, and conservation policies. Under PAT's chairmanship, the committee was able to reach a compromise on the 2018 farm bill, allowing for the inclusion of several key policies to enhance rural development, support our farmers, and fund vital nutrition programs. I know from negotiating the 1990 farm bill as committee chairman that reaching a bipartisan and bicameral consensus on such a substantial and sweeping piece

of legislation is no simple task. PAT's leadership through the process showed his deep commitment to providing for the American people.

PAT and I have worked together, and we have traveled together. We often chuckle that there are two bald men named PAT serving in the Senate. While I will miss sharing that chuckle with my friend, I will miss more his partnership and unwavering commitment to advancing responsible policies and practices to support agricultural sectors across the country. PAT and his wife Franki have become friends. Marcelle and I wish them the very best.

TRIBUTE TO CORY GARDNER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, CORY GARDNER may be one of the younger members of the Senate, but he has brought distinction and dedication to his work on behalf of Coloradans. His entire career has been anchored in legislative work, at the Federal and State levels, first as a Senate staffer and then in the Colorado House of Representatives, before his election to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In both the State legislature and in the House of Representatives, he focused primarily on energy and agriculture legislation. He brought these priorities with him to Senate in 2015, through his work on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and Commerce, Justice, and Science Committees. As a Senator, Senator GARDNER has often worked across the aisle to find common ground and deliver for the people of the United States. One recent example was the enactment of the bipartisan Great American Outdoors Act, which became law in August. This landmark bipartisan conservation legislation permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund, supports and creates countless jobs in conservation and outdoor recreation, and protects our country's natural beauty. Through the negotiation and passage of this bill, Senator GARDNER was at the table, trying to reach consensus and bring about meaningful benefits for the American people. That is no easy task and one which is not undertaken often in the Senate these days.

Senator GARDNER will leave the Senate at the end of this Congress, but I know his dedication to public service will remain. Marcelle and I wish Senator GARDNER, his wife Alyson, and the rest of their family the very best in the next chapter of their lives.

TRIBUTE TO DOUG JONES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as a nation, today we find ourselves contemplating the key tenets upon which our country was founded: the importance of truth and equality, the pursuit of justice, and the determination of what is right. DOUG JONES has pursued justice and has fought for equality and for what is right for his entire career.

DOUG is one of the most dedicated, thoughtful and decent public servants I have ever had the privilege to know and work with in my time in the Senate. He leaves the Senate having only furthered that record of public service.

DOUG brought with him to the Senate a passion for civil rights and for resolving prior injustices. As U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Alabama, he fought against entrenched racial injustice. He prosecuted the men responsible for the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church; and indicted domestic terrorist Eric Rudolph. In the Senate, he continued the pursuit of justice as a vocal advocate for greater government transparency and authored legislation that has expanded access to criminal investigation records for civil rights cases, helping families and individuals to resolve injustices after decades of inaction.

I am certain that, even as he leaves the Senate, DOUG will continue to represent and to fight for what is right. His has been an important and uniquely qualified voice for justice voice in the Senate these last few years, and I will miss his sound judgment and thoughtful advocacy. I know his long record of public service will only continue. Marcelle and I wish DOUG and his wife Louise and their entire family all the best.

I have great respect for him. He is one of the most impressive Senators I have served with, and I am so proud of all he has accomplished.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA MCSALLY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, although MARTHA MCSALLY only joined the Senate in 2019, she has spent decades serving the Nation and the people of the State of Arizona.

She served for decades as a fighter pilot in the U.S. Air Force, in service to our country and to keep Americans safe. Upon her retirement as colonel from the Air Force, she continued her career as a public servant by representing Arizona's Second Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives for 4 years before her appointment to the Senate.

In the Senate, as she did in the House, Senator MCSALLY has fought hard to support veterans and has worked to further the interests of Arizonans. Her sense of duty to her country and to her State allowed her to make important contributions to the Senate Armed Services and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committees.

Senator MCSALLY has also been a "neighbor," with our offices both on same floor of the Russell Senate Building. I thank Senator MCSALLY for her service in the Senate, and I wish her the best in the next chapter of her life.

(At the request of Mr. THUNE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I was alerted that someone in my household had been in close contact with several people who have tested positive for Covid-19. In an effort to avoid potentially exposing the passengers and crew on my flight, and my staff and colleagues in the Senate, both myself the member of my household took a PCR test in Florida and are currently awaiting the results.●

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 21-07 concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Italy for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$500 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

HEIDI H. GRANT,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21-07

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Italy.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$10 million.

Other \$490 million.

Total \$500 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: The Government of Italy has requested to buy articles and services to support the integration of two (2) Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Electronic Warfare (AISREW) mission systems onto two (2) Italian Ministry of Defense provided G550 aircraft consisting of:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Four (4) Multifunctional Information Distribution Systems—Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS JTRS) (2 installed, 2 spares).

Three (3) Embedded/GPS/INS (EGI) with GPS Security Devices, Airborne (2 installed, 1 spare).

Four (4) RIO™ Communications Intelligence Systems (2 installed, 2 spares).

Non-MDE: Also included are Missile Warning Sensors, AN/ALE-47 Countermeasure Dispenser Sets (CMDS), MX-20HD Electro-Optical and Infra-Red systems, Osprey 50 AESA Radars, AISREW ISR equipment, Secure Communications equipment, Identification Friend or Foe Systems, aircraft modification and integration, ground systems for data processing and crew training, ground support equipment, publications and technical data, U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services, flight test and certification, and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (IT-D-BAA).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 15, 2020.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Italy—Gulfstream G550 Aircraft with Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Electronic Warfare (AISREW) Mission Systems

The Government of Italy has requested to buy articles and services to support the integration of two (2) Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Electronic Warfare (AISREW) mission systems onto two (2) Italian Ministry of Defense provided G550 aircraft consisting of: four (4) Multifunctional Information Distribution Systems—Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS JTRS) (2 installed, 2 spares); three (3) Embedded/GPS/INS (EGI) with GPS security devices, airborne (2 installed, 1 spare); and four (4) RIO™ Communications Intelligence Systems (2 installed, 2 spares). Also included are Missile Warning Sensors, AN/ALE-47 Countermeasure Dispenser Sets (CMDS), MX-20HD Electro-Optical and InfraRed systems, Osprey 50 AESA Radars, AISREW ISR equipment, Secure Communications equipment, Identification Friend or Foe Systems, aircraft modification and integration, ground systems for data processing and crew training, ground support equipment, publications and technical data, US Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services, flight test and certification, and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated program cost is \$500 million.

This proposed sale will support U.S. foreign policy and national security by helping to improve the security of a NATO ally, which is an important partner for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale supports and complements the ongoing efforts of Italy to modernize its airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Electronic Warfare capability and increases interoperability between the U.S. Air Force and the Italian Air Force (ITAF). Italy will have no difficulty absorbing these articles into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be L3Harris, Greenville, TX. There are no known offset

agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of up to six (6) additional U.S. contractor representatives to Italy for a duration of one (1) year to support equipment familiarization.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness resulting from this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21-07

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. Missile Warning Sensor (MWS) units are mounted on the aircraft exterior to provide omni-directional protection. The MWS warns of threat missile approach by detecting radiation associated with the rocket motor. The Infrared Missile Warning System (IRMWS) is a small, lightweight, passive, electro-optic, threat-warning device used to detect surface-to-air missiles fired at helicopters and low-flying fixed-wing aircraft and automatically provides counter-measures, as well as audio and visual warning messages to the aircrew.

2. Multifunctional Information Distribution System—Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS JTRS) is an advanced Link-16 command, control, communications, and intelligence (C3I) system incorporating high capacity, jam-resistant, digital communication links for exchange of near real-time tactical information, including both data and voice, among air, ground, and sea elements.

3. The AN/ALE-47 Countermeasure Dispenser Set (CMDS) provides an integrated threat-adaptive, computer controlled capability for dispensing chaff, flares, and active radio frequency expendables. The system is internally mounted and may be operated as a standalone system or may be integrated with other on-board Electronic Warfare (EW) and avionics systems. The AN/ALE-47 uses threat data received over the aircraft interfaces to assess the threat situation and determine a response. Expendable routines tailored to the immediate aircraft and threat environment may be dispensed using one of four operational modes.

4. The Embedded GPS-INS (EGI) is a sensor that combines GPS and inertial sensor inputs to provide accurate location information for navigation and targeting, and can be loaded with crypto-variable keys.

5. Wescam MX-20HD is a gyro-stabilized, multi-spectral, multi-field of view Electro-Optical/Infrared (EO/IR) system. The systems provide surveillance laser illumination and laser designation through use of an externally mounted turret sensor unit and internally mounted master control. Sensor video imagery is displayed in the aircraft real time and may be recorded for subsequent ground analysis.

6. The Osprey family of surveillance radars provides second generation Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) surveillance capability as the primary sensor on airborne assets. The Osprey radars are at a high technology readiness level and are in production for fixed and rotary wing applications. This Osprey configuration employs a side-looking radar. Osprey radars provide a genuine multi-domain capability, with high performance sea surveillance, notably against difficult targets, land surveillance with wide swath, very high resolution ground mapping, small and low speed ground target indication, high performance air to air surveillance, tracking and intercept.

7. The AISREW mission systems, to include the RIO™ Communications Intelligence Systems, provide near-real-time information to tactical forces, combatant commanders and national-level authorities